

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 1                   1. A method of configuring a network access device having a first  
2 network address allocated to a subscriber of services of a first service provider  
3 provided by a first service network, with a new network address allocated to a second  
4 subscriber of services of either the first service provider, or a second service provider  
5 provided by a second service network, wherein the network access device is  
6 connected to an access network connected to a plurality of service networks,  
7 comprising the steps of:  
8                    sending a request from the network access device to the access  
9 network with user credentials for the second subscriber requesting access to the first  
10 service provider or a change to the second service provider;  
11                   receiving a response from the access network; and  
12                   initiating a network address change request using a configuration  
13 protocol,  
14                   whereby, a second network address allocated to the second subscriber  
15 of services of either the first or the second service providers is assigned to the network  
16 access device, the second network address being utilized by the network access device  
17 to communicate data packets to the service network providing the selected service .  
  
1                   2. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein said request to said access  
2 network includes an authentication request for the second subscriber.

3. The method recited in Claim 2, wherein said response received from said access network includes an authentication status for the second subscriber from either the first or the second service providers and, if authenticated, initiating said network address change request.

4. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein the host configuration protocol is a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP).

5. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein the network access device receives an Internet Protocol address.

6. A method of configuring a network access device having a first network address allocated to a first subscriber of services of a first service provider provided by a first service network, with a new network address allocated to a second subscriber of services of a second service provider provided by a second service network, wherein the network access is connected to an access network connected to a plurality of service networks, comprising the steps of:

    sending a request from the network access device to the access network with user credentials requesting a change to a second service provider for the second subscriber;

    receiving a response from the access network; and

    initiating a network address change request using a DHCP configuration protocol,

    whereby a second network address allocated to the second subscriber of services of the second service provider is assigned to the network access device, the second network address being utilized by the network access device to communicate data packets to the service network providing the selected service.

1                   7. A method of configuring a network access device having a first  
2 network address allocated to a first subscriber of services of a service provider  
3 provided by a first service network, with a new network address allocated to a second  
4 subscriber of services of the service provider, wherein the network access device is  
5 connected to an access network communicating with a service activation system and  
6 connected to a plurality of service networks, comprising the steps of:

7                   sending authentication information for the second subscriber to the  
8 service activation system over the access network;

9                   receiving an authentication status for the second subscriber from the  
10 service activation system and, if authenticated;

11                  initiating a network address change request using a configuration  
12 protocol,

13                  whereby a network address allocated to the second subscriber of the  
14 selected service provider is assigned to the network access device, the network  
15 address being utilized by the network access device to communicate data packets to  
16 the service network providing the selected service.  
17